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WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for cutting a window covering to a specified length comprising:
  - a base having a top surface;
  - a frame overlying said top surface and mounted to said base, said frame and said top surface defining a receiving area therebetween for receiving said window covering;
  - a cutting assembly slidably mounted to said frame for sliding along a movement axis toward and away from said receiving area, said movement axis being diagonal to said top surface of said base;
  - a cutting blade connected to said cutting assembly, said cutting blade including a cutting edge facing said receiving area; and
  - a driver connected and in engagement with said cutting assembly, wherein operation of said driver imparts sliding motion to said cutting assembly to move said cutting blade diagonally through said receiving area.
2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cutting blade cuts said window covering to said specified length when moving through said receiving area.
3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said frame includes one or more guide tracks, said cutting assembly being slidably mounted in said one or more guide tracks. *38*
4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said one or more guide tracks are angled with respect to said top surface of said base.
5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said driver is selected from the group consisting of rack and pinion gear arrangements, ratcheting mechanisms, screw-activated elements, pneumatic elements and electrical-motor operated devices. *38*
6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5,

wherein said cutting assembly includes a ~~rack having a~~ plurality of teeth and ~~said pinion includes a plurality of teeth at the periphery thereof, said pinion being~~ matingly engaged with said rack so that rotation of 5 ~~said pinion imparts motion to said cutting assembly.~~

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, said cutting apparatus further comprising a lever connected to said pinion, wherein movement of said lever rotates said pinion.

10 8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, said lever including a handle at an end thereof remote from said pinion.

15 9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, said window covering including a head rail, a bottom rail and a covering material therebetween.

10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said covering material includes an upper section connected to said head rail and a lower section connected to said base rail.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, said top surface of said base having a first end and a second end adjacent said cutting blade.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, said apparatus further comprising a backup at said second end of said ~~top~~ <sup>cutting</sup> surface, said backup opposing said cutting edge of said cutting blade.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup includes nylon.

14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said backup includes a bar extending across said second end of said top surface.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, said base including a guide rail at said top surface of said base extending from said first end to said second 35 end of said top surface, said guide rail guiding movement of said window covering across said top surface and aligning said window covering with said cutting blade.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein said guide rail has a longitudinal axis  
extending between said first and second ends of said  
top surface which is substantially parallel to a  
5 longitudinal axis of said head rail and a longitudinal  
axis of said bottom rail.

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16,  
wherein a portion of said guide rail at said second end  
of said top surface is adjacent said movement axis so  
10 that said cutting blade passes closely by said guide  
rail at said second end of said top surface while said  
cutting blade moves through said receiving area.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15,  
said guide rail including a mandrel for engaging at  
15 least one of said head rail and said bottom rail.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18,  
said headrail including an opening at the top thereof,  
said mandrel being slidable within said opening.

20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
20 wherein said base includes a clamping assembly for  
securing said window shade over said top surface of  
said base. 20

21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15,  
25 said clamping assembly including a clamp block  
extending substantially parallel to said guide rail and  
having a threaded bore, a rotatably threaded shaft and  
a crank handle, said rotatably threaded shaft having a  
first end connected to said clamp block via said  
threaded bore and a second end rotatably connected to  
30 said crank handle, wherein said crank handle is  
rotatable for moving said clamp block toward and away  
from said guide rail.

22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21,  
35 wherein said clamp block is movable toward said guide  
rail for applying a clamping force to said window  
covering.

23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16,  
wherein said cutting blade includes a longitudinal axis

which is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said guide rail.

24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said cutting blade includes a massive portion and a pocket, said massive portion being thicker than said pocket.

25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said pocket is contiguous with said cutting edge and said massive portion surrounds said pocket.

10 26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said massive portion of said cutting blade is approximately 0.40 - 0.50 inches thick and said pocket of said cutting blade is approximately 0.10 - 0.20 inches thick.

15 27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cutting blade includes a first face which is substantially flat and a second face including said pocket.

20 28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said pocket includes a tapered region extending from said cutting edge, said tapered region having a thickness which increases as the distance from said cutting edge increases.

25 29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said tapered region includes a first tapered section extending away from said cutting edge, said first tapered section and said first face of said cutting blade defining a first acute angle.

30 30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said tapered region includes a second tapered section extending from said first tapered section and remote from said cutting edge, said second tapered section and said first face of said cutting blade defining a second acute angle which is smaller than said first acute angle.

35 31. An apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said apparatus includes a measuring assembly adjacent said cutting blade for measuring said

specified length of said window covering.

32. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said measuring assembly includes a stop block movable between a first position in which said stop block engages said window covering and a second position in which said stop block is remote from said window covering.

33. An apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said pocket of said cutting blade faces said end of said window covering to be cut and said stop block.

34. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said apparatus includes a measuring assembly adjacent said cutting blade for measuring said specified length of said window covering.

35. An apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said measuring assembly includes a stop block movable between a first position in which said stop block engages said window covering and a second position in which said stop block is remote from said window covering.

36. An apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said measuring assembly includes an instrument for measuring said window covering.

37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said instrument includes a ruler.

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